

# DEVON & HOUSATONIC DRIVE

Milford, CT

This 2.9 mile walk was created by the Milford Walkers in 1985 under sponsorship of the Milford Recreation Department and is featured in the Milford Favorite Walks book. This neighborhood walk highlights the Devon area of Milford along the Housatonic River. The walk begins at the back of the Margaret Egan Community Center (formerly an elementary school). Ms. Egan was Milford's City Clerk for 26 years (1959-1961 and 1963-1987). Steps lead from the parking area to Granville Street which then connects to Housatonic Drive. The first part of Housatonic Drive travels parallel to Beaver Brook and the Charles E. Wheeler Wildlife Area—fantastic for bird watching.

Milford was first settled by the Wepawaug tribe. The Indians named the Housatonic River "usi-a-di-en-uk" which meant "beyond the mountain place".

The river was also sometimes known as "Potatuck", or the "Great River", until the 18th century. The Housatonic River estuary is the most consistent producer of seed oysters in the northeast as a public oyster bed, and generates over one-third of all oyster seed available to the state shellfish industry. In this lower section of the river are tidal wetlands and salt marshes which provide important habitat for plants, birds, shellfish, finfish and other aquatic life. The Housatonic River enters Long Island Sound at Milford Point.

A highlight of the walk is the recently completed Housatonic River Overlook Park adjacent to the Washington Bridge and Route 1 (Bridgeport Avenue) which includes benches and landscaped planting areas. The park provides nice views of the Housatonic River, the local marina, and days offer nice viewing of sailboats and other boat traffic along the river.

*When finished in 1921, the Washington Bridge was the most expensive project ever undertaken by the CT State Highway Department, costing \$1.5 million. The rare Steel trunion-bearing bascule bridge has five 100' open-spandrel concrete arches and is 859' long. The bridge connects the City of Milford with the Town of Stratford and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

*Photo by Department of Transportation*



## Directions and Parking:

This area can be reached via Route 1 (Bridgeport Avenue). Take Route 1 to Naugatuck Avenue to Matthew Street. Parking is available behind the Margaret Egan Community Center.

## Permitted Activities:

Dogs are allowed on public streets and sidewalks on leash. Please pick up any animal waste.

*This project made possible through a grant from the National Recreational Trails Program, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.*



*Information for this brochure is excerpted from the Milford Favorite Walks Book.*

## For more information about this location, contact:

Environmental Concerns Coalition  
c/o Mayor's Office  
(203) 783-3201  
www.milforddecc.com

## South Central Regional Council of Governments

127 Washington Avenue, 4th Floor West  
North Haven, CT 06473

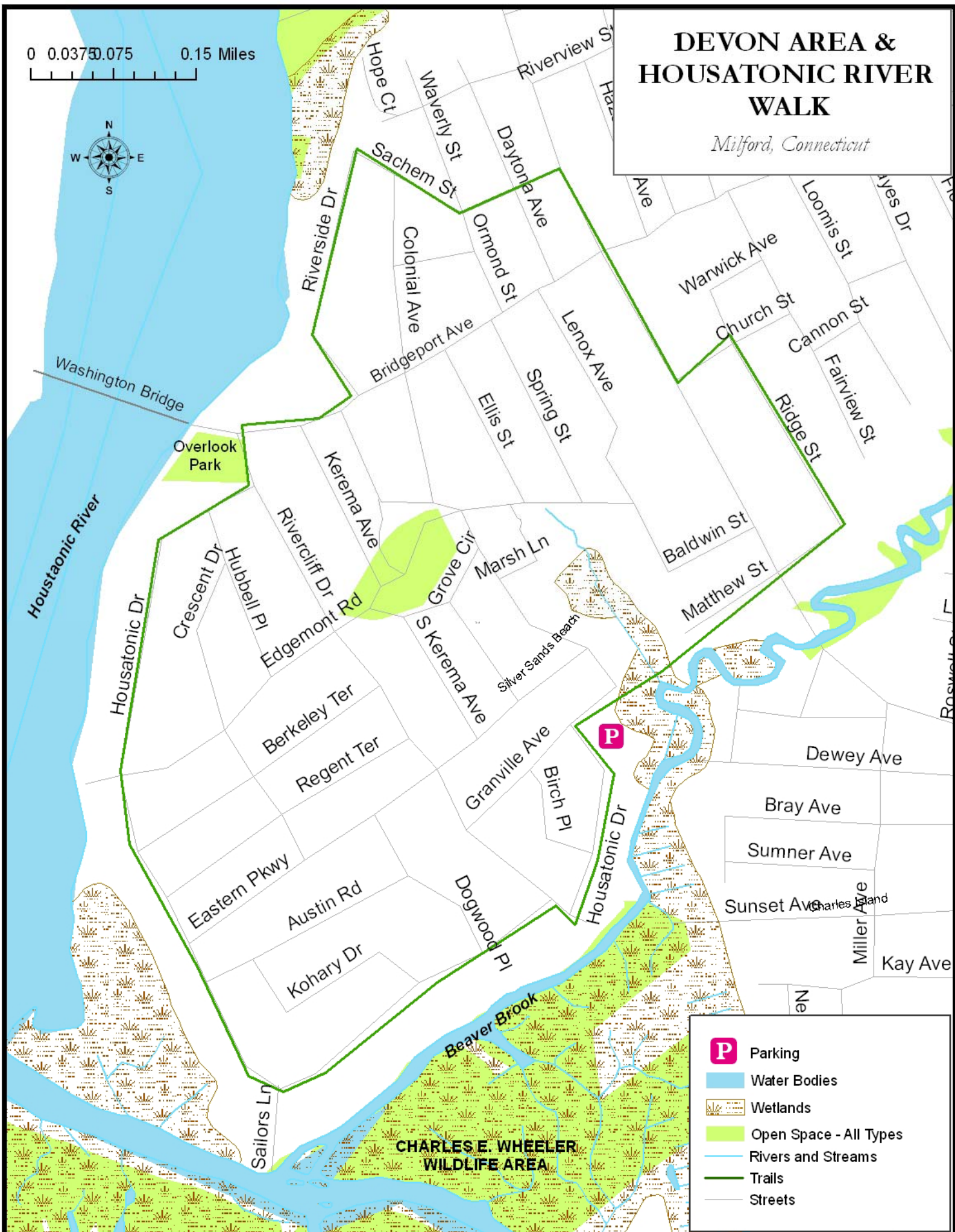
Phone: (203) 234-7555  
Fax: (203) 234-9850  
E-mail: trails@scrcog.org

0 0.0375 0.075 0.15 Miles



# DEVON AREA & HOUSATONIC RIVER WALK

*Milford, Connecticut*



Parking



Water Bodies



Wetlands



Open Space - All Types



Rivers and Streams



Trails



Streets